

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CA-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26413

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SREF, TH, MY, UNHCR
SUBJ: KUALA LUMPUR MEETING ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 228979

1. DCM CALLED ON ACTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DIRECTOR GENERAL ASA BUNYAPRATHUANG TO DISCUSS UPCOMING
KUALA LUMPUR MEETING ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

2. USING POINTS REFTEL DCM URGED THAT THE RTG TAKE AN
ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MEETING, PARTICULARLY IN SUPPORT OF
ANY INITIATIVES UNHCR HARTLING MAY TAKE WITH REGARD TO
INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES. HE
POINTED OUT THAT MEETING WOULD BE GOOD OCCASION FOR RTG
TO EXPLAIN THAI SITUATION, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON
LAND REFUGEES. DCM ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE RTG AND OTHER
ASEAN COUNTRIES MIGHT SUPPORT HARTLING AT KUALA LUMPUR AND
BILATERALLY, IN HIS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER EEC
ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. HE STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE OF RTG REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING, NOTING
THAT LOWMAN WOULD BE COMING OUT FROM WASHINGTON AND THAT
ROSENBLATT WOULD BE ATTENDING FROM BANGKOK.

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3. ASA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR OUR APPROACH,
NOTING THAT HE HAS BEEN CONCERNED THAT KUALA LUMPUR
MEETING MIGHT FOCUS ONLY ON BOAT CASE REFUGEES. HE SAID
THAT HARTLING GAVE HIM THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE
UNHCR VIEWED THE KUALA LUMPUR MEETING AS ESSENTIALLY
COSMETIC MEETING FOCUSING ON BOAT CASES SO THAT THE

MALAYSIANS WOULD NOT FEEL UNHCR WAS NEGLECTING THAT PROBLEM. ASA SAID THAT THE RTG HAD BEEN PLANNING TO LET THE THAI AMBASSADOR IN KUALA LUMPUR REPRESENT RTG AT THE MEETING. AS A RESULT OF OUR APPROACH, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY RECOMMEND THAT MFA AND MOI OFFICERS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON REFUGEE PROBLEM BE SENT TO KUALA LUMPUR TO BRIEF THE THAI AMBASSADOR AND ASSIST HIM IN THE MEETING. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT MFA WILL BE RECOMMENDING THAT ONE MFA OFFICER AND ONE MOI OFFICER GO TO KUALA LUMPUR.)

4. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE RTG SUPPORT FOR AN INITIATIVE TO SECURE GREATER EEC REFUGEE ACCEPTANCE, ASA SAID HE WOULD PASS OUR VIEWS ON TO HIS SUPERIORS WITH HIS OWN PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT. ABRAMOWITZ

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